



## *Office of the State Fire Marshal*

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June 14, 2016

### **Notice re: Shear Valve Mounting Reference Point**

Verifying proper mounting and positioning of shear valves beneath dispensers has been a point of emphasis for OSFM and Chicago UST inspectors over the last 2 years. Included in the requirements for proper mounting and positioning is the need to align the shear point of the shear valve “within ½ inch of the plane of the main surface that supports the dispenser, which is **usually the island top**” (PEI RP100-11, with emphasis added). This alignment requirement is common to all manufacturers of shear valves, per their equipment installation specifications and instructions.

With that in mind, in the last year it has come to the attention of OSFM that some facility owners are having concrete resurfacing done on deteriorated islands, as an alternative to replacing the existing islands. This is for cosmetic or appearance purposes only, and does not involve changing the shear valve mounting reference point, since the dispensers’ mounting points will remain at the original island top, with new surfacing concrete added around the dispenser to cover the deteriorated surface of the dispenser island.

**When a cosmetic surface upgrade is applied to an existing dispenser island, the shear valve mounting reference point will remain at ½ inch plus or minus of the plane where the dispenser is mounted. The mounting reference point will not move to the new top of the re-surfaced island, which may be as much as 2 inches higher than the original island top.**

When concrete work only is done at a regulated dispensing facility in Illinois, no permit is required from OSFM, nor is the contractor required to be licensed with OSFM. However, work that has the potential to affect components of dispensing operations must be done in a manner so as to not adversely affect those components. Any resurfacing done to dispenser islands to improve the appearance of the islands must not interfere with the safety function of an underdispenser shear valve. Dispensers will remain mounted on the original existing island top, and the shear point of the shear valve will continue to align with that plane, not the new surface. Additionally, the dispenser must be able to apply shear forces to the shear point properly in the event of an impact in order to insure that the shear valve will operate as designed.